



The President's Daily Brief

25 November 1969

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Japan, Sato may parlay public satisfaction with the Okinawa settlement into a general election.
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The Soviet government is preparing to commemorate Stalin's ninetieth birthday. (Page 2)

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JAPAN

Sato

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may dissolve the Diet in early December and call for general elections later in the month, if the debate in the Diet over the Okinawa agreement goes satisfactorily. This timetable would take maximum advantage of favorable public reaction to settlement as well as of the "law and order mood" prevalent in Japan following recent leftist student excesses.

Opposition elements, in an effort to cast doubts on the government's handling of the Okinawa issue, will probably subject Sato to close questioning during the extraordinary Diet session beginning on 29 November. Sato, however, is adept at handling opposition interpellations, and, with popular opinion generally behind him, he should have little difficulty deflecting criticism.

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USSR

Press reports from Moscow suggest that Stalin's birthday on 21 December will be officially commemorated this year for the first time since 1955. The celebration will be low-keyed, consisting mostly of a photographic display in Moscow and some press and TV coverage.

The intent seems to be less to honor Stalin than to warn the liberal intellectuals against persisting in their efforts to keep the anti-Stalin line going in literature and scholarship. The present government recently has emphasized the positive aspects of Stalin's regime, primarily his war record.

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NOTE

India: The split in the Congress Party has been formalized, and Prime Minister Gandhi remains as strong as ever. Over the weekend, Mrs. Gandhi's faction deposed the old-guard party president, selected an interim president, and has begun to set up administrative units to oversee the party's activities. The old guard has adopted the name "Organization Congress Party," and probably will fight hard to continue its control of party funds, party records, and the vote-getting election symbol--two yoked oxen.

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